

TESTIMONY OF TOM FALIK, ON BEHALF OF
THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF HOME CARE REGISTRIES
IN SUPPORT OF SB-932
REGARDING WRITTEN NOTICE BY REGISTRIES

Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Baram and other members of the General Law Committee. Thank you for the time to testify in **support of SB-932, AAC Written Notice Requirements for Homemaker or Companion Services Registries**. My name is Tom Falik, and I am President of the CT Association of Home Care Registries (CAHCR). Our Association is comprised of Referral Registries that provide independent caregivers to CT's elderly and people with disabilities.

Homecare Registries have existed in CT for over 80 years, and they serve a critically important function in the care of seniors and people with disabilities. They allow **sole proprietor caregivers**, who are in the business of providing care for the elderly and people with disabilities, to find work with individuals needing care. **They facilitate the desire of seniors and people with disabilities to remain in their homes, by providing care at a lower cost than employee-based Agencies.**

Our Association has worked actively with the legislature in recent years to enhance legislative oversight of our segment of the homecare industry. All members of CAHCR are registered with the CT Department of Consumer Protection, and our members pride themselves on operating their registries in a completely legitimate and above-board manner. **We provide a critical alternative to the "underground" sources of unregulated and unscreened caregivers that may be unqualified or may take advantage of unsuspecting seniors.**

In 2011, our Association proposed and actively supported amendments to the Homemaker-Companion Statute, which required, for the first time, that all Registries register with the CT Department of Consumer Protection. Included in those amendments was Section 20-679a, the registry notice provision that is proposed to be amended by this Bill. Although we are not aware of any issues that would require the notice period in that statute to be reduced from seven to four days, in the spirit of cooperation with this Committee, **we would be willing to support this amendment to Section 20-679a if the members determine that it is warranted.**

Additionally, we would propose one further action regarding the DCP's administration of homemaker-companion agencies, including registries. Registries have been specifically recognized in this statute since 2011, and registries have certain requirements, such as this notice provision, that go beyond those of other homemaker-companion agencies. However, **the registration process of the DCP does not require registrants to specify whether they are (1) a homecare registry or (2) an employee-based homecare agency.** This creates obvious limits on DCP's ability to enforce requirements imposed on registries, and prevents the public from having a State source to find whether a homecare company is a registry or an agency. **We have recommended to DCP that their registration renewal process be modified to include a check-off box that would show a homecare company to be either a registry or an agency.** I do not know if such a change would require legislation or merely administrative action by DCP.

The CT Association of Home Care Registries remains willing to work with this Committee and the DCP to insure that all homemaker-companion agencies, including registries, are properly regulated and operated. Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I would be glad to take any questions.